

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee

Meeting of Thursday, September 9, 2010

Town Hall, Planning Department office

Attendance: Rob Crowner, Mary Streeter, Peggy Roberts, Harry Brooks. Absent: Nonny Burack, Carol Gray, Adrienne Terrizzi.

1. Call to order: Peggy calls the meeting to order at 4:15pm.

2. Sound quality subcommittee: Peggy distributes the report of the meeting of the subcommittee investigating sound quality issues in the middle school auditorium, prepared by Adrienne. The committee discusses whether it would be reasonable to request that people forego use of their electronic devices for a night in order to determine whether that would make a difference in the sound quality, with no conclusion. Mary suggests including information about sound quality in the Town Meeting packet. Mary moves, Rob seconds, and the committee votes 4-0 to accept the report of the subcommittee.

3. Electronic voting subcommittee: All those attending the meeting having been present during the proceedings of the subcommittee just prior, this item is skipped. See subcommittee minutes for details.

4. Petition articles: Peggy reports that no petition zoning articles were received by the September 7 deadline. The deadline for other petition articles is September 13.

5. Town Meeting planning:

Bus tour: The committee speculates that a bus tour may not be necessary because of a lack of site-specific articles; however, a decision will not be made until staff articles are submitted. Mary suggests that some pictures or video of locations that might be affected by the "development modifications" zoning article could be compiled independent of a bus tour and broadcast on ACTV. Following discussion, Harry moves, Mary seconds, and the committee votes 4-0 "to request that the Planning Board ensure that the Town take an active role in educating Town Meeting about the development modifications article prior to Town Meeting, possibly including video, a forum, or site visits among other methods." Rob will convey this request to the Planning Board.

Warrant review: The committee speculates about the size of the warrant; not many articles are known to be in the pipeline, though staff and citizen articles are not due until September 13. Mary states that she has requested to be added to the email notification list for the in-house warrant prep meetings. The committee discusses whether it should push for a higher profile at these meetings. Mary notes that the committee is tasked with "coordinating" Town Meeting and therefore should be involved in the whats and whys of decision-making. Peggy states that she hasn't found much of a role for TMCC at the meetings, but has been able to learn about articles whose status has changed and has gotten a sense of the time expected to be spent on articles, which helps in planning the warrant review. Harry states that the committee should decide whether it wants more representation or more participation in the meetings. Rob suggests rotating rather than increasing the committee's representation at the meetings as a first step. Peggy states that political debate would be disruptive at these meetings and expresses concern about potential push-back if the committee attempts to expand its role. Mary moves, Harry seconds to request that an additional representative(s) of TMCC be permitted to sit in on in-house planning meetings, and though a majority indicates a willingness to vote for the motion, it is noted that the flux in the town manager's office complicates the situation and after further discussion no decision is reached.

TMCC webpage: Noting that she has been informed that email sent to the TMCC addresses cannot be automatically redistributed to all members, Mary suggests adding members' email addresses to the chart on the TMCC webpage. Peggy suggests putting the TMCC email address on the chart in addition to the other places it is posted. The committee agrees to consider these items at the next meeting.

6. Minutes of previous meetings: Mary moves, Harry seconds, and the committee votes 4-0 to approve the minutes of both August 24, 2010 and August 12, 2010.

7. Adjournment: The meeting is adjourned at 5:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Crowner

Documents provided:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of August 24, 2010 meeting
3. report of sound quality subcommittee